

Appendix E Public Participation Documentation

Contents of this Section

- E.1 Summary of Public Participation in Planning Process
- E.2 Hurricane Open House
- E.3 Public Review and Comment Period #1
- E.4 Public Review and Comment Period #2
- E.5 Public Presentations
 - E.5.1 Hurricane Open House Presentation
 - E.5.2 Public Meeting Presentation

E.1 Summary of Public Participation in Planning Process

Galveston is a community with a long history of public participation in government processes, and the mitigation planning process was no exception. Public comment and opinion was solicited from the start of the planning process, beginning with a presentation and a request for survey participation at the City's annual Hurricane Open House (see E.2 for details).

The public's comments regarding hazards and potential projects were considered in the development of the hazard profiles and the mitigation goals, strategies and actions contained in this mitigation plan. While members of the general public were not invited to sit on the Stakeholder Committee for security reasons, their input was considered by the Committee throughout the planning process.

Additionally, the draft plan was made available to the public for review and comment beginning in August 2010. The draft plan was available on the City's website (www.cityofgalveston.org), along with a comment form. A hard copy of both the draft plan and the comment form were available in the City Secretary's Office. Notice of the draft plan's availability was widely distributed, including through an announcement in the *Galveston Daily New* and a posting on the City's website's News section.

As is in keeping with the City's standard practice, no public meeting was held to discuss the draft plan, though it was discussed at a public City Council Meeting. Also in keeping with the City's standard practice, a public meeting will be held to introduce the final plan prior to adoption by the City Council. This is anticipated to happen in spring 2011.

The following sections contain various items, documenting the public's participation in the development of this hazard mitigation plan.

E.2 Hurricane Open House

Each year, prior to the start of Hurricane Season, the City hosts an Open House event for the public. This Open House is an opportunity for the City to provide information to the public, and for the public to ask questions of presenters, including the Mayor and the City's Emergency Management Coordinator. In addition, City departments, department heads, and partner agencies are invited to set up booths to provide information and answer questions.

The 2010 Open House occurred on May 19, 2010. Based on the sign-in sheets, more than 300 people attended the Open House. As part of the Open House, a presentation was made informing attendees that the City was preparing to begin the mitigation planning process, what the plan would entail, and how the public would be asked to participate. (A copy of the presentation can be found at the end of this appendix.)

In addition, the public was invited to complete a resident survey. This survey, which was used in throughout the plan, was available via a website and in hard copy at the Open House. A copy of the survey appears below, which is identical to the web-based survey in content.

**Figure E.2-1
Galveston Resident Survey**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your frank and honest responses will help us assess capability for hazard mitigation planning and implementation. This survey should take 10 minutes, or less.

First, it is important to establish what we mean by "hazard mitigation." For the purposes of this assessment, the term "hazard mitigation" refers to measures intended to reduce the effects of hazards on a place and its population. Hazards include naturally occurring events such as floods, high winds, and ice storms, as well as manmade hazards resulting from events such as industrial accidents or dam or levee failures.

Hazard mitigation actions include a broad array of programs and actions, including: public education about stronger construction techniques, elevation or acquisition of repetitive loss structures, floodplain management regulations, dam construction and wetland restoration. On the other hand, programs and projects that strictly address public safety and/or emergency management are typically not considered to be hazard mitigation. Please keep these definitions in mind as you answer the following questions.

Questions are asked on the front and back of the following pages.

1. Have you ever experienced or been impacted by a disaster?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. If yes, how were you impacted by a disaster?

3. How concerned are you about the possibility of Galveston being impacted by a disaster?

- ☐ Not Concerned
- ☐ Somewhat Concerned
- ☐ Concerned
- ☐ Very Concerned
- ☐ Extremely Concerned

4. Please select the one (1) hazard you think poses the greatest threat to Galveston.

- ☐ Coastal Erosion/Subsidence
- ☐ Tropical Systems (hurricanes, tropical storms)
- ☐ Flooding (all sources)
- ☐ Tornadoes/Extreme Winds
- ☐ Severe Thunderstorms

The City of Galveston, Texas
Appendix E: Public Participation Documentation

- ☐ Severe Winter Storms
- ☐ Sea Level Rise
- ☐ Technological / Human-caused Hazards
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

5. Please select the one (1) hazard you think poses the greatest threat to you, your family and friends, and your property.

- ☐ Coastal Erosion/Subsidence
- ☐ Tropical Systems (hurricanes, tropical storms)
- ☐ Flooding (all sources)
- ☐ Tornadoes/Extreme Winds
- ☐ Severe Thunderstorms
- ☐ Severe Winter Storms
- ☐ Sea Level Rise
- ☐ Technological / Human-caused Hazards
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. Is your home or property located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (i.e., a flood zone)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

7. Is your property insured against flood damage?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

8. If your property is not insured against flood damage, why not? (Mark all that apply.)

- ☐ My property is not located in a flood hazard area
- ☐ Flood insurance is too expensive
- ☐ Not necessary – my property has never flooded
- ☐ Not necessary – my property is elevated or protected against flooding
- ☐ Flood insurance is not available for my property
- ☐ My homeowner's policy covers flooding
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

9. Prior to moving in to your current residence, did you know if the property was located in a flood hazard area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10. If yes, did that knowledge influence your decision?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

11. Have you taken any action to make your home, neighborhood or community more resistant to disasters and hazards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. If yes, please describe the action you have taken.

13. If no, are you interested in taking action to make your home, neighborhood or community more resistant to disasters or hazards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. What way(s) do you typically receive information about how to make your home, neighborhood and/or community more resistant to disasters and hazards? (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Television/Radio
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Mail
- ☐ Public Meetings/Workshops
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

15. In your opinion, what are some steps that could be taken to reduce or eliminate the hazards that threaten your property, neighborhood or community?

16. Are there any other steps you think are important to protect your property, neighborhood or community?

17. There are a number of activities that can reduce the risks from hazards and disasters. In general, these activities fall into one of the following broad categories. Please select the one category you consider to be the most effective form of hazard mitigation.

- ☐ **Emergency Services** - Actions that protect people and property during and immediately after a hazard or disaster event. Examples include warning systems, evacuation planning, emergency response training, and protection of critical facilities or systems.
- ☐ **Natural Resources Protection** - Actions that, in addition to minimizing hazard losses, also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. Examples include floodplain management, habitat preservation, slope stabilization, wetlands restoration, and dune restoration and management.
- ☐ **Prevention** - Administrative or regulatory actions that influence the way land is developed and buildings are built. Examples include planning and zoning, building codes, open /green space preservation, and floodplain management regulations.
- ☐ **Property Protection** - Actions that involve the modification of existing buildings to protect them from a hazard, or removal from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, relocation, elevation, structural modifications/retrofits, and storm shutters.
- ☐ **Public Education and Outreach** - Actions to inform citizens about hazards and the techniques they can use to protect themselves and their property. Examples include outreach projects, school education programs, handout materials, and demonstration events.
- ☐ **Structural Projects** - Actions intended to lessen the impact(s) of hazard(s) by modifying the natural progression of the hazard(s). Examples include dams/levees/seawalls, detention/retention basins, retaining walls, and storm sewers.

18. I am a

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

19. I am a

- ☐ Year-round resident
- ☐ Seasonal resident
- ☐ Frequent visitor
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Non-resident employee
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

20. I

- ☐ Own my home
- ☐ Rent my home
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

21. I have

- ☐ A high school diploma
- ☐ Some college education
- ☐ A college degree
- ☐ Some graduate education
- ☐ Post-graduate education
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

22. I am

- ☐ Under 18

The City of Galveston, Texas
Appendix E: Public Participation Documentation

- ☐ 18-30
- ☐ 30-40
- ☐ 40-50
- ☐ 50-60
- ☐ 60 or older
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

E.3 Public Review and Comment Period #1

Note to Reviewers: This information will be completed once the first public comment period has been completed.

Prior to submission to TDEM, the review draft of the Plan was made available to the public for review and comment. The draft plan and the public comment form was posted to the City's website on Friday, August 6th, 2010; a hard copy of all documents was also available in the City Secretary's Office. In addition, CDs with the draft plan were provided to City Council members, the Mayor's Office and the City Manager's Office.

All comments received will be considered prior to adoption of the plan.

E.4 Public Review and Comment Period #2

Note to Reviewers: This information will be completed once the second public comment period has been completed.

E.5 Public Presentations

E.5.1 Hurricane Open House Presentation





What is Hazard Mitigation Planning?

- Mitigation plans form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.
- The planning process is as important as the plan itself. It creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.
- State, Indian Tribal, and local governments are required to develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance.

Act with confidence.




Benefits to Community of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- Increases public awareness and understanding of vulnerabilities
- Builds partnerships with diverse stakeholders, increasing opportunities to leverage data and resources in reducing workloads
- Expands understanding of potential risk reduction measures
- Informs development, prioritization, and implementation of mitigation projects

Act with confidence.







Additional Benefits to Community of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- Every \$1 in mitigation saves \$4 in recovery costs*
- 1955-2005, mitigation measures prevented 220 deaths and 4,700 injuries*
- For every eligible \$1 spend locally on FEMA-funded grant projects, the feds pay \$3-\$9.
- Opportunity to lower flood insurance premiums
- Opportunity to plan for future mitigation efforts, and to coordinate those efforts for maximum efficiency and efficacy


* Source: The Multi-hazard Mitigation Council, "Hazard Mitigation Saves," 2005 an independent review of FEMA mitigation activities

Act with confidence.



Financial Benefits to Community of Participating in Mitigation Planning

- Gain/retain eligibility for pre-disaster mitigation grant programs :
 - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)
 - Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL)
 - Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC)
- Gain/retain eligibility for post-disaster grant programs:
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Certain FEMA Public Assistance (PA) categories

Act with confidence.



About this Mitigation Planning Project

- This project is being funded by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, through a grant from FEMA
- The City applied for and was awarded an HMGP grant to fund the majority of this planning project
- The City is responsible for 25% of the costs of this project, which are being paid through in-kind services (i.e., City staff time and resources)
- The City has hired a facilitator and plan developer for this project

BR

Act with confidence.



Mitigation Planning Process Overview



BR1

Act with confidence.



A Hazard Mitigation Plan is a plan to reduce a community's risk from and exposure to disasters, and is typically developed before a disaster...

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which is a plan to guide a community's response to an emergency or disaster.



WITT
A Division of
Part of CitiMedia Group

- Organize resources, including agencies & people
- Identify and gather information about hazards
- Assess risks & vulnerabilities
- Identify mitigation opportunities & priorities
- Develop plan
- Implement and monitor plan





Developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan

It boils down to two basic questions:

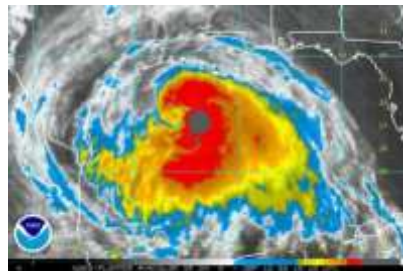
- What hazards present the greatest risk to the City of Galveston?
- What are the most effective ways to reduce or eliminate those risks?

Act with confidence.



Natural Hazard Examples

- Hurricane and Coastal Storm
- Severe Storms
- Flood



Act with confidence.





Human-Caused Hazard Examples

- Hazardous Materials Incidents (Fixed Site and Transport)
- Terrorism
- Transportation Incidents (air/rail/bridge)
- Accidental chemical or biologic agent release



Act with confidence.



Hazard Mitigation Measures



Hazard mitigation measures include projects that limit a hazard's impacts, such as levees, seawalls, or safe rooms...



Act with confidence.





Hazard Mitigation Measures

...projects that move assets out of harm's way, like acquisition or elevation of buildings, or burying utilities...





Act with confidence. 



Hazard Mitigation Measures



...Also, regulatory practices such as enacting or enforcing building codes, issuing and monitoring permits, floodplain management, or land use policies...

Act with confidence. 



Hazard Mitigation Measures

...or training and educational programs for communities and local agencies, and public education and outreach programs.



Act with confidence.



Stakeholder Committee

Purpose: The Stakeholder Committee will provide oversight to the planning process and serve as a source of local knowledge

Responsibilities include:

- Attend all planning meetings
- Gather and review hazard & risk information
- Serve on the committee for a period of one year
- Review project deliverables
- Make recommendation(s) to City Council

Act with confidence.





Public Engagement Opportunities and Timeline

- Provide responses to survey for Capability Assessment:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N75YT3X>
- Review and comment on final draft of plan, prior to submission to State/FEMA
 - Anticipated in mid- to late July 2010
- Review and comment on final plan prior to adoption by City Council
 - Anticipated in March 2011

Act with confidence. 



Questions ?

Act with confidence. 

E.5.2 Public Meeting Presentation

The City of Galveston, Texas
Appendix E: Public Participation Documentation